

Mayor Lee Webster called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council Members present were Art Smyth, Dave Freels and John Scheller. Council Member Dan Smith was absent. Council Member Kris Dawson was available via phone for portions of the meeting. Also present were Public Works Director JD Smith, City Clerk Misty Ruiz, Police Chief Ron Oules and Deputy Clerk Desha Dawson.

❖ **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –**

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

MOTION: Council Member Freels made the motion to approve the September 12, 2012 City Council Final Agenda as is. Council Member Scheller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

MOTION: Council Member Smyth made the motion to approve the July 11th, and August 15th City Council Minutes. Council Member Freels seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE APPROVAL:

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the City Council.

As of this date, September 12, 2012, the Council, by a majority vote, does approve for payment those vouchers included in the voucher payment list and further described as follows: Claims Fund voucher numbers 47800-47864, 340, 47750, 47754, 47755, 47799 and 47622 in the total amount of \$158,929.04.

Payroll Fund voucher numbers 303, 304, 306-311, 313-331, 47675-47679, 47751-47753 and 47757-47791 in the total amount of \$119,613.68.

MOTION: Council Member Freels made the motion to approve the above noted bills and payroll for payment. Council Member Scheller seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION APPOINTMENT:

MOTION: Council Member Freels made the motion to approve the appointment of Lex Lindquist to the Civil Service Commission, position No. 3. Council Member Scheller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NCWEDD REPRESENTATIVE:

Jennifer Korfiatis of the NCW Economic Development District presented to Council with brochures and pamphlets regarding the organization and how it benefits the Cities who join. She encouraged Mayor Webster and Council to contact her with any questions.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB:

John Wyss presented to Council to discuss the Boys and Girls Club proposal with the City of Brewster. He was speaking in the place of Bill Tsoukalas, who was unable to attend the meeting this evening. John handed out a packet which outlines their Vision, discussed programs and clinics, activities, a plan and estimated annual operating expenses. John stated that the B&G Club is very much looking forward to working with the City on a potential lease of the Brewster Rec Center for the program. He encouraged the Mayor, Council or anyone else who had questions about this to contact him directly, or to contact Mr. Tsoukalas. Numbers were provided.

MAYOR WEBSTER:DISCUSSION: (PD elimination/contract with County):

The OCSO cost breakdown, as well as an email from Frank Rogers, was reviewed. According to this cost breakdown, it would cost the City of Brewster roughly 1.3 million dollars to contract for services with the County. Council Member Freels stated that this was a "no brainer"; we will stay with our own Police Department. All that was asked is for this comparison, so Council could determine whether it would save money to contract with the County, and obviously it will not.

Oules asked if Council would present a letter to his officers stating that the City of Brewster will not be contracting with the OCSO in the foreseeable future. He stated that he and his officers would like this in a letter form, something a little more solid. Council Member Dawson stated that it would be a difficult statement to make to say the City will "never" contract with the County because we don't know how our budget is going to look in the future. Council Member Freels stated that with the numbers presented from the County tonight, the City cannot afford to contract with them. There is no savings. Council agreed to send a letter to the BPD Officers regarding the decision to not contract with the County, as noted above.

DISCUSSION: (PD continuation to be staffed with 6 officers, as budgeted):

With near the same turn out as the August Council Meeting, over 30 Brewster Citizens filled the Fire Hall meeting room to discuss the number of Officers employed by the City of Brewster. Mayor Webster opened the floor to discussion.

Council Member Scheller stated that he is still in favor of only having five officers. His position has not changed. Council Member Freels stated he feels it is critical that the City focus on repairing the streets before they are too far gone and cost twice as much compared to if we just fix them now. He is also still in favor of only having five officers on staff.

Police Chief Ron Oules stated the money is in the budget to do what we need to do with the streets without cutting an officer position, or any position, at the City. He believes that the Council has not been listening to the numbers that the Clerk is giving to them with respect to our budget. Clerk Ruiz reviewed the numbers from April of 2001 until June of 2012. She stated that there has been significant improvement in our finances since 2011, spending cuts, etc. and that we are in a much better financial position than more than a year ago. Scheller argued that these are not good comparisons; he does not believe these numbers are correct.

Several Citizens voiced concerns and questions for the Council. One citizen asked what other areas of savings and cuts did the Council consider before choosing not to fill the sixth officer position. Another citizen stated that where she works, if someone leaves or quits their position, it is up to the supervisors whether or not that position is refilled – it is not automatically assumed that someone will be hired to replace them – it has to show a need. Police Chief Ron Oules stated that he has done this. The dispatch records from the OCSO show the calls for service and the number of incidents, and what kinds, his officers are responding to.

Oules went on to state that there has been a 22% increase in calls for service from this time last year. There were 120 calls for service last month. He stated that there are large gaps in service. There has not been 24-hour police coverage in Brewster for quite some time now. In the past, he made it work – even with the decrease in staff. He stated that it is now falling behind. People are figuring out what is going on with the PD, the schedule and the lack of coverage. This is when a majority of the graffiti, malicious mischief and other incidents are occurring – when there is no coverage.

The discussion continued with concerns from the general public in attendance. Some voiced concerns over not having enough officers; a few stated that they felt we had enough. One citizen asked about the previously discussed questionnaire and fact sheet that was going to be sent out to all of the residents in Brewster for their input. Mayor Webster stated that this is still in the works, but will be going out within the next two weeks.

Officer Ruiz and Lieutenant Hook were present at the meeting. Both stated that it is difficult to effectively do their job without sufficient staffing. They also stated that an extra officer does make a difference. Ruiz stated that he does not like having to respond to a “gun” call by himself – it is just not safe for the officer or the person they are responding to help. Hook stated that it a different town after dark. He stated that in the 23 years he has been an officer, not one time has any member of the Council ever offered to go on a “ride a long” with him while on patrols. He strongly encouraged the members of this Council to do so. That way, they could see firsthand what the officers of the BPD are doing, and how they are doing it.

Public Works Director Smith stated that we cannot save up 200-300K in the next year. It is just not possible. We cannot sacrifice staff – whether that be public works, clerks or PD, in order to “pad” a fund. He would like to do a capital facility plan, get recommendations, show numbers for grants and loans and be on target for this. Council Member Freels stated that he would like to see a plan. Public Works Director Smith stated this is being done currently. Public Works Director Smith suggested that a more feasible plan would be for the City to put 50Ka year into a reserve fund over the next five years. If this were done, would Council Member Freels be in favor of replacing that sixth officer position. Freels stated that if the plan was enacted and it shows that it will work, then yes, he would. Council Member Scheller stated that we need to get our infrastructure taken care of before it gets to a point that we cannot afford to repair it.

Citizen Tim Rieb stood and read aloud a letter addressed to the City of Brewster. This letter was in reference to what he feels is a violation of the Open Public Meetings Act, referencing to a letter submitted to the Quad City Herald by Council Member Scheller, Council Member Freels and Council Member Dawson. Mr. Rieb stated his intent to sue the City of Brewster for this violation.

Council Member Freels stated that Council Member Dawson wrote the letter. Freels stated he was asked by Dawson to sign the letter, which he stated he did do at her place

of employment. Council Member Scheller stated he received a copy of this letter via email. Council Member Freels stated that the three of them did not meet together to write this letter to the editor.

ACTION ON:

Decision to eliminate BPD and contract with County:

Mayor Webster stated that after discussion (noted above) and after reviewing the OCSO Cost Breakdown for services, no further discussion was necessary. This will not be a cost effective move for the City of Brewster. The City of Brewster will not be looking to contract with Okanogan County for Police coverage.

Decision of number of BPD officers to be employed by the City:

Mayor Webster stated that since we are missing two of our Council Members this evening, this topic will need to be discussed when all members are present.

Place matters concerning the BPD on an advisory ballot for consideration by City electorate:

Mayor Webster stated this had been placed on the agenda for discussion with the anticipation of having all five Council Members present. Council Member Scheller and Council Member Freels had previously stated that the fact sheet/questionnaire outcome could possibly effect their decision regarding the number of officers.

ACTION LIST FOLLOW UP:

The action item list from the July Council meeting was reviewed (see attached). The following requests, notes and discussions are outlined on the action item list for July.

MISTY RUIZ – CITY CLERK TREASURER:

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT:

Ruiz reported that the cash investment activity is about the same as last month. The revenue coming in is more than expenditures going out, and this is a good sign. As of July, our expenditures were at 62%, so for seven months – we are right on target.

TRAINING REQUESTS:

On follow-up from the August meeting, Clerk Ruiz presented with a total cost for herself and Deputy Clerk Dawson to attend the annual Vision Software Training Conference in Leavenworth on October 3rd, 4th and 5th. Total cost for both to attend will be \$1000. That includes the conference fees, hotel, meals and mileage.

MOTION: Council Member Smyth made the motion to approve Clerk Ruiz and Deputy Clerk Dawson's attendance to the Annual Vision Conference in Leavenworth, and all fees associated. Council Member Freels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

COURT CHECKING SIGNOR ADDITION:

Clerk Ruiz asked for Council approval to add Juana Escobar as a signor on the Court checking account. Ruiz will still be auditing this account; however, having Juana as a signor will allow her to monitor what is being remitted to the State.

MOTION: Council Member Scheller made the motion to approve the addition of Juana Escobar as an additional signor on the Court Checking Account. Council Member Freels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

JD SMITH – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:

Public Works Director Smith stated his crew has been restriping the City streets, including crosswalks and parking spaces. They have run out of paint at the moment, but more has been ordered and the crew will finish when it is received.

TRAINING REQUESTS:

Public Works Director Smith has asked for Council approval to send Dave Reynolds to a one-day water training class in Wenatchee. Attendance to this class is required for maintenance of his CEU's. for water certifications.

MOTION: Council Member Smyth made the motion to approve Dave Reynolds attendance to the one-day water conference in Wenatchee and associated fees. Council Member Scheller seconded the motion and the motion passes unanimously.

WWTP UPDATE:

Public Works Director Smith stated that the WWTP has been short one employee since June of this year due to illness/injury. Surgery has been scheduled for this person, with a possible return to work date of November 1st. WWTP Operator Lynn Lawson has been doing a great job; however, he still needs help from time to time.

EXTENSION OF SEASONAL TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE:

Public Works Director Smith would like to extend the work period for the temporary employee until the end of October. This will allow for the temporary employee to help fill in as needed and assist Lynn Lawson at the WWTP until the employee who is out on leave can return to work. This temporary employee will also be utilized to assist in the walk trail clean up.

MOTION: Council Member Freels made the motion to extend the work time for the temporary employee to the end of October for the reasons noted above. Council Member Smyth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

REC CENTER HVAC UPDATE:

Public Works Director Smith had previously briefed Council about this issue in August. He has received an email from our insurance company regarding recovery of funds. The estimate for replacement from Lakeside Heating was approximately 17K. Insurance will pay for half, with the out of pocket cost to the City being roughly 9K. Public Works Director Smith needs Council approval to proceed with this repair.

MOTION: Council Member Freels made the motion to authorize Public Works Director JD Smith to proceed with the HVAC replacement at the Columbia Cove Community Center, which will be performed by Lakeside Heating and Air Conditioning. Council Member Scheller seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

WELL HEAD PROTECTION:

Public Works Director Smith stated that the Dept. of Health will require that all Cities implement a well-head protection program by the year 2014. He, however, would like to do this now. The well-head protection program would include fencing these areas to secure them (river well and canyon well). Public Works Director Smith would like to install a 6ft chain link fence with barbed wire along the top. Material and installation will be right around 25K. There is money in the water fund to cover this. He has a quote from Chaparral Fence.

MOTION: Council Member Freels made the motion authorizing Public Works Director Smith to proceed with the Well-head protection program, as recommended by the WSDOH, at a cost of 25K for materials and installation by Chaparral Fence. Council Member Smyth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

POLICE CHIEF RON OULES:

STATS AND UPDATES:

Police Chief Ron Oules stated that there has been a huge influx of graffiti and malicious mischief calls over the past two weeks. Being that they are short one officer, they are covering the shifts the best they can. His officers are getting tired. The increase in graffiti and malicious mischief can only be curtailed by more patrols, which will be difficult to do with the current number of officers he has now.

He reported that he recently spoke with retired BPD Officer Nattalie Cariker, and she may be willing to come to the Brewster Elementary School and teach the DARE Program. He is hoping that this arrangement can work, as the school and the youth in our area do benefit from this program greatly.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Mayor Lee Webster

ATTEST:

City Clerk/Treasurer, Misty Ruiz